



International Business Machines Corporation
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Intellectual Property Law Department

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via Airborne

May 16, 2000

Charles W. Peterson, Jr.
Rabin & Champagne, P.C.
1725 K Street, N.W.
Suite 1111
Washington, DC 20006

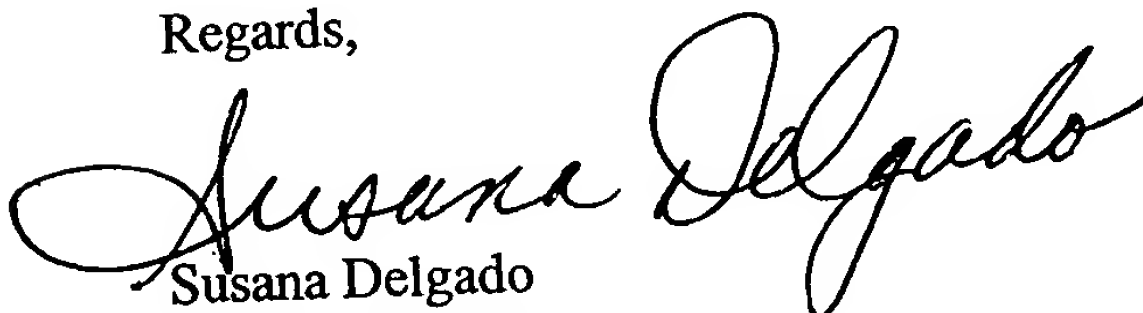
Subject: **New IBM Patent Applications**
Disclosure ARC8-2000-0081 - "Method and Apparatus for Entering Key Strokes
Through a Steering Wheel"
Disclosure ARC8-2000-0086 - "System and Methodology for Solving Massively
Computational Parallelizeable Optimization Problems"
Disclosure ARC8-2000-0122 - "System and Method for Improving Brokers' Profits
in Electronic Commerce"

Dear Charles:

Enclosed please find the above referenced IBM disclosures. Please perform a patentability search for each of these cases. If we decide to proceed, I will supply you with the IBM docket numbers and inventor information.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Regards,


Susana Delgado
IP Law Administrator

/srd

Enclosure

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW

Established in 1859

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PATENT AGENTS

WALTER A. MICHEL
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*ADMITTED TO D.C. BAR

patents sent to inventor
mmc 7/24/00

July 13, 2000

VIA U.S. MAIL

Mark McSwain
Attorney, IP Law Department
IBM Corporation
Almaden Research Center
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San Jose, CA 95120-6099

Re: Search Report
Your Reference
Title

ARC8-2000-0122

"SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
IMPROVING BROKERS' PROFITS
IN ELECTRONIC COMMERCE"

Dear Mark:

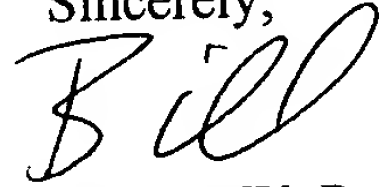
As requested by Susana Delgado's letter of May 16, 2000, we conducted a search on the above-referenced disclosure. The search results are included herewith. None of the references teach the idea disclosed therein.

However, please review U.S. Patent No. 6,014,643 to Minton entitled "Interactive Securities Trading System" which discusses brokers and brokers' income in the background at Col. 1, line 31 to Col. 2, line 37. It is a stated purpose of Minton to minimize broker oversight (and corresponding profit). Thus, while it may be of some interest, Minton is not considered to teach the invention.

Mark McSwain
July 13, 2000
Page 2

After you have had an opportunity to review the search results, please contact us and let us know how you would like for us to proceed. Thank you for allowing us to be of service. We take this opportunity to enclose our invoice for services rendered in this search.

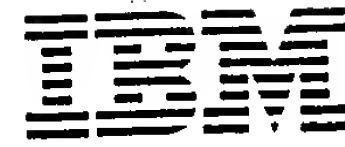
Sincerely,



Charles W. Peterson, Jr.

Enclosures

- Search results
- 8 patents:
 - 6,014,643
 - 5,592,375
 - 6,058,379
 - 6,041,311
 - 5,897,620
 - 5,855,008
 - 5,802,502
 - 5,995,947
- Invoice No. 316743



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August 28, 2000

Charles W. Peterson, Jr.
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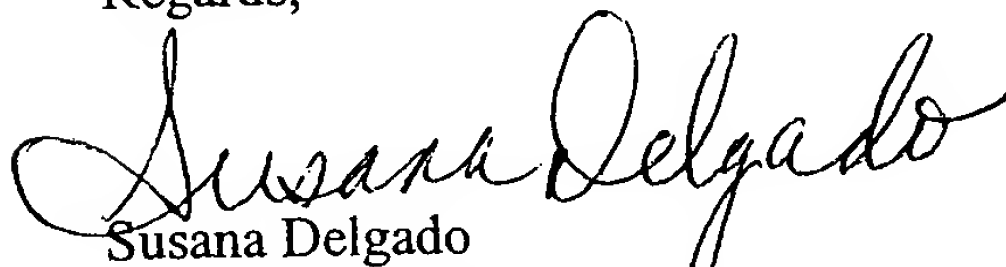
Subject: **New IBM Case to Prepare**
IBM Disclosure ARC8-2000-0122, Docketed as ARC9-2000-0138-US1

Dear Bill:

Enclosed please find the inventor information for the above-referenced disclosure sent on May 16, 2000. Please proceed to prepare this application.

Thank you for your continued support to IBM. Please contact me if there is anything else you need.

Regards,


Susana Delgado
IP Law Administrator

/srd

Enclosure

From: Charles Peterson
To: Nimrod Megiddo
Date: Wed, Sep 6, 2000 3:00 PM
Subject: ARC9-2000-0138-US1 "... Broker's Profits in Electronic Commerce"

Nimrod,
Transmitted herewith for your review is a first draft (same password) of your above referenced patent application. Please review the draft and especially the claims carefully and provide me with your comments as quickly as possible, preferably by September 20, 2000.

As before, I have embedded questions in the text. For expediency, please mark up the draft and fax the marked up portions back to me. If you edit the softcopy, please bracket [deletions] and underline insertions so that I can identify your changes.

Alternately, if you prefer e-mail, my e-mail address is cpeterson@fitcheven.com. For e-mail, please identify the location about which you are commenting with a page number, line number and specific words within the line. Also, please make certain that the terminology is internally consistent and that the description is sufficient that one skilled in the art would be able to practice the invention by reading the application.

Also, please notify me of all references of which you are aware or any facts (e.g., publication or sale) that may be relevant to this invention. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) imposes a duty of candor on all applicants and their attorneys. Violation of that duty can result in invalidation of resulting patents at the very least.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to call. Please send the results of your review as soon as possible, preferably by September 20, 2000.

Bill

IF THIS TRANSMISSION IS INCOMPLETE, PLEASE CONTACT CHARLES W. PETERSON, JR., IMMEDIATELY AT (202)789-8758. INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS TRANSMISSION IS ATTORNEY-CLIENT-PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL; INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE ADDRESSEE. IF YOU ARE NOT THE ADDRESSEE, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISCLOSURE OF THIS TRANSMISSION IS PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS TRANSMISSION IN ERROR, PLEASE CALL US COLLECT ASAP AT THE ABOVE NUMBER. THANK YOU

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September 11, 2000

Mark McSwain
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VIA U.S. MAIL

mmc

*Final Draft
+ Docs.*

Re: New Application - Nimrod MEGIDDO
Your Reference : ARC9-2000-0138-US1
Our Reference : 7218-69123

Dear Mark:

Further to Susana Delgado's letter of August 28, 2000, enclosed herewith is a patent application, including an Assignment and Declaration and Power of Attorney, for the above-referenced invention as approved by the inventor, Nimrod Megiddo. Please have the inventor execute the Application as soon as possible and return it to us to file.

If you would like any further changes to the specification, claims or drawings or would like any additional claims, please let us know and we will be happy to make them and forward a revised specification to you. If you should have any further instructions, comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With best regards,

Bill

Charles W. Peterson, Jr.

Enclosures

- Specification, Claims and Abstract
- 3 Sheets of Informal Drawings
- Inventor Declaration and Power of Attorney
- Assignment
- Diskette in WordPerfect 5.1, 6.0 and ASCII format



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via Airborne

January 3, 2001

Charles W. Peterson, Jr.
Fitch, Even, Tabin & Flannery
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Washington, DC 20006-1201

Subject: **Executed Documents**
IBM Docket ARC920000138US1, Your Ref: IBM-7218-69123

Dear Bill:

Enclosed please find the executed Declaration and Assignment for the above referenced patent application. Please proceed with filing this case.

Thank you for your assistance and for your continued service.

Regards,

Susana Delgado
IP Law Administrator

/srd

Enclosure